1.1.18
a Lesson in the University of The New Covenant
Theodore Cottingham, May 22, 2003
www.newcovenant.me

1. I was about to get in bed but kept thinking of the phrase, "above all else." I remembered that my daughter, Amy, had just recorded a song on her newly released CD entitled, Above All Else. I went a got a copy and put it on as I was about to lay down. All of a sudden, this phrase came to me: "I always wanted to be a businessman." Wow. I kept thinking about it and all of a sudden, a whole realm of understanding was revealed to me about myself.

2. I realized that, true, all my life I have wanted to preach. I've had all sorts of people prophesy over me during my life about me preaching, especially when I was in school. An angel appeared to me at age 9 and told me to "Preach. Tell others about Jesus." So, all my life I've known that I would preach. And I have really wanted to preach. I've longed to preach. I've yearned to preach. I've ached inside wanting to preach.

3. And all of a sudden, last week, it all came clear to me. I have always wanted to preach...as a businessman. All of a sudden I realized what was in my heart. Businessmen had money, they had status, they had respect. I have always wanted to be a businessman and have a business. I've always been proud these last twenty years when I could tell people "I have my own business," regardless of whether I was making good money or hardly making my house payment.

4. So last Thursday night, I realized all of this, and more. When I began to seriously seek the Lord in 1995 and spend blocks of time in prayer and asking Him, begging Him, to let me do what I was born for, my relationship with Him flourished. But my income? My income steadily declined. One year I netted only $11,000. So...the brook was drying up. He was nudging me on but I didn't let go.

5. Over these last seven years or so, I've had a phrase mentioned to me multiple times. It has almost haunted me. It was, "Ted, you're rubbing up against it." "Ted, you're so very close to what God has for you" and statements like that. I've enjoyed times of unbelievable splendor in the presence of God during these years and He has given me much. I've written notebooks and notebooks and boxes of folders of notes, ideas, principles, and revelation. But financially, it seems I have exerted the most incredible amounts of energy trying to make a living still doing consulting and taxwork. Then in January I began doing real estate and mortgages but I was involved with that only three weeks when God spoke to me and said, "You won't be here long."

6. Over the following months I have had an increasing knowledge that I was in the wrong place. I've continued to look and pray. Back in December, out of total desperation, I made a renewed commitment to early morning prayer and have made it a daily practice since then. God has spoken to me over and over during these times. Now, I know where I'm supposed to be.

7. About a month ago I spoke at a conference here in Tulsa. I was going to do a presentation on God in business, as I have doing at every opportunity for some seven years. I have a great PowerPoint presentation developed and I was ready to share it. But the video projector would not work. Instead of God in business I spoke publicly about many things that He has given me, for the first time.

8. Last week the man making copies of that message on cassette tape called and asked me what to use as a title. What came to me was, "Taking Your Place in This World." Later in my prayer time in the chapel, I saw a picture in my mind of that tape and, instead of having "God in Business" on it at the bottom of the tape, it had, "Ted Cottingham Ministries." Wow. It was so clear to me.

9. I phoned up the tape man and told him to put on the tape, Ted Cottingham Ministries. Now this was, and is, significant for me. There were times in the past that I was critical of people using their name and putting the word ministries behind it. But, I saw it and it was very, very plain to me. That was me.

10. So what all am I saying here? I'm letting you know that I am announcing the launch of Ted Cottingham Ministries. April 15 God gave me some 11 pages of instructions and on April 16 He gave me another 5 or so pages. I will email you those words to me from Him in the next few days for you to read and share with others.

11. Over two years ago I was driving down Lewis Avenue here in Tulsa and I felt God speak to me, "you have an office in that building." I checked it out but at that time I had no leading to do anything about it right then. I set that "word" on the shelf. Now last week, as all this unfolded about Ted Cottingham Ministries to me, and knowing for months that I was in the wrong place, I knew I had another place for an office and I "just happened" to remember that "word" about that office. I phoned and went by and they had one office that suits me perfectly, just painted and carpeted. The owner told me he'd had eight people look at that office and say we'll let you know tomorrow, and never came back. I think God held it for me.

12. So, I am really doing a new thing. God has confirmed to me that I will speak to many business people, but I will speak as a preacher. He told me, "you always wanted to do what you wanted to do, your way. And you must do what I want you to do, my way."

13. Since all of this unfolded to me last week I have been having the time of my life. I have been experiencing a freedom that I have only dreamed about. I have a gleam in my eye and a skip in my step that I have not had in years, many years. I know I'm on track. I know this is what God wants of me. And He as confirmed it with a number of incredible words and events, and by other people, that I will be sharing with you in coming days.

14. He has told me I'm going to Russia right away, and instructed me to go to Buenos Aires, Argentina also. I'll share more, lots more.

15. I appreciate your friendship and ask for your prayers. If you want a copy of the tape I mentioned, "Taking Your Place in This World" let me know by email, mail or phone and I'll send you one at no charge.

16. With lots of love, excitement, and freedom deeper than I've known in years,

Ted Cottingham, Preacher
Ted Cottingham Ministries
Tulsa, Ok.